



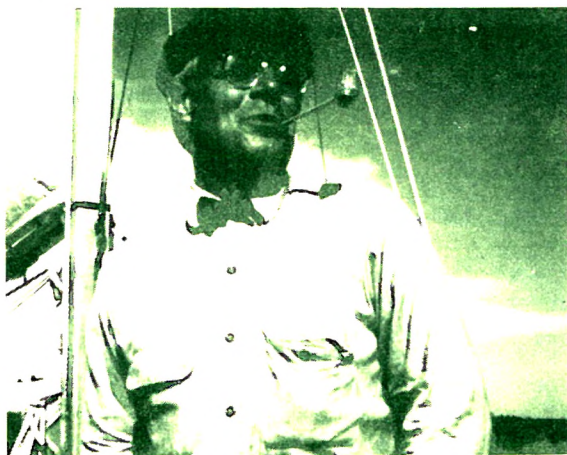
CHAPTER NEWS

OCTOBER 1979

Edward Myers Elected Head

At the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Maine Chapter, held this year on Deer Isle, Edward Myers of Damariscotta was elected the new Chairman. Mr. Myers, who is head of Abandoned Farms, one of two commercial mussel-raising operations in the State, took over the position from Clinton B. Townsend of Skowhegan, who had served for the past two years. Mr. Townsend was reelected as a Trustee.

Ed Myers comes into the position as Chairman with many years of TNC experience as Chairman of the local Stewardship Committee for Damariscove Island. He has been affiliated with the University of Maine through the Darling



Center and has served on several State commissions including the Commission on Maine's Future.

Other officers elected at the meeting included Edward T. Richardson, Jr., of South Portland, reelected as Secretary; and, returning after several years, Dana A. Little of Brunswick, as Treasurer. By vote of the members, the Board

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ADDITIONS to Penobscot Bay Island



PRESERVES

Just off Vinalhaven, TNC owns Big Garden Island and one-quarter undivided interest in Big White Island, both part of the White Islands. Through the estate of Charles Cunningham of Brookline, Massachusetts, the Maine Chapter has now received an additional one-quarter undivided interest in Big White Island.

Big White comprises some 25 acres with high, lightly-colored granite cliffs (30 feet or so on south side). It contains a wide and diverse habitat between the water's edge and the thick spruce and fir that dominate the interior, including good stands of two northern species, black crowberry and creeping juniper. It includes an active osprey nest. Recently three ledges off the Whites have also been leased by the Maine Chapter from the Bureau of Public Lands. (See News, April, 1979.)

The second parcel brings the Maine Chapter an additional 54 acres of Bradbury Island in

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was expanded this year to include as many as 18 Trustees. Charles P. Bradford, recently retired from the staff, was elected an honorary Trustee for life by a unanimous vote. The Board now consists of the following, who bring with them a wide variety of interests and talents.

Charles P. Bradford, *Manchester*
G. Robert Butler, *Kennebunk*
B. Bartram Cadbury, *Cushing*
Dr. Robert M. Chute, *Mt. Vernon*
Philip W. Conkling, *Rockland*
Dr. Ronald B. Davis, *Orono*
Harwood Ellis, Jr., *Wiscasset*
William Haney, *Bath*
Linda Jones, *Windsor*
C. Edwin Meadows, Jr., *Bangor*
James Perry, *Camden*
Sally Rooney, *Houlton*
James A. St. Pierre, *Auburn*
Clinton B. Townsend, *Skowhegan*
Harry Tyler, *Augusta*
David S. Wakelin, *Portland*

The meeting took place after field trips in the morning. Undaunted by fog, members and friends had visited two nearby preserves, Wreck Island and Crockett Cove Woods, learning about

their natural and social history from the qualified trip leaders. Workshops on stewardship, acquisition, and TNC's new preserve, Great Wass Island, preceded the actual business meeting.

The meeting was highlighted by comments by TNC's Development Director, Charles Scott. "Scotty" comes recently from being the Executive Director of the Connecticut Chapter, and so his outline of the growth of the organization had a good understanding of such growth from the perspective of a chapter. He reminded those present that TNC now has a budget of over \$6 million and is really "in the business of natural areas." Although to date Conservancy has protected some 1.6 million acres of land, in the next few years it must work quickly to protect 1,000 to 1,500 more natural areas before they are swallowed up by development. Although the organization has grown substantially since its beginning in 1951, it still continues to rely heavily on the volunteers. There are more than 6,000 across the country who help manage the preserves, and TNC could not exist without their support. He attributed TNC's success to commitment of the members and "because we deal with something tangible." He painted an optimistic picture for the future, but stressed that success is only possible if the financial support grows as well.

Highlights

- * TNC had a booth at the Appalachian Trail Conference in August at Sugarloaf. Those manning the booth were pleased to note how many people knew about Conservancy and TNC's efforts to help protect the Trail.
- * Maine Chapter membership has been increasing and now stands at about 1,500 due to several mass mailing efforts. More are planned for the fall.

- * TNC's President, Patrick F. Noonan, paid a visit to Maine this summer. He attended the Appalachian Trail Conference meeting at Sugarloaf and also had an opportunity to visit the coast. Preserve Chairman for Sheep Island, Eugene Eaton, was pleased when he discovered Mr. Noonan enjoying lobster stew in his restaurant!
- * A special thanks to the Kezar Lake Association which has agreed to help with the taxes on the Sucker Brook Preserve in Lovell.

Director's Corner

GIVING LAND

The Nature Conservancy has learned by hard experience that holding and managing (not to mention protecting) land is extremely difficult and expensive. In an effort to make the best use of Conservancy's very limited finances and resources generally, we undertake a careful and detailed examination of a tract of land before accepting (or purchasing) it as a preserve.

This allows us to offer other alternative suggestions to a landowner if, by chance, TNC does not feel that the land is proper for our long-term ownership. In this way, the end result is usually obtain to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Occasionally, we do not have the opportunity to talk with the owner of a parcel of land. We are simply notified that an individual has passed on and left a parcel of land to TNC.

John W. Jensen
Executive Director

In the past, this has created difficult situations.

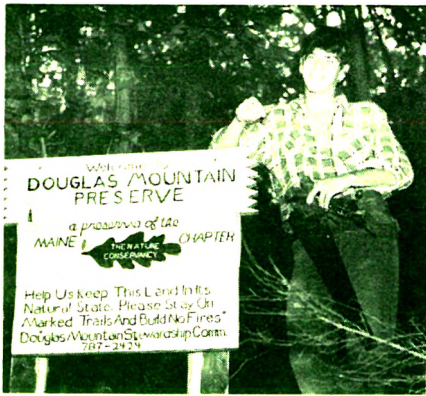
We must then either accept the land (either to hold, transfer, or possibly even sell) or reject the gift and create the resulting confusion and estate tax problems which may follow.

There is one case where the Chapter accepted such a gift without knowing what we would do with the land. That land has cost the Chapter over \$5,500 in taxes and survey costs, in addition to extensive staff time and legal costs resulting from a trespass and excavation of an abutting owner.

The point that I would like to make is quite clear: If you are planning to leave a parcel of land to TNC in your will, please get in touch with us and talk to us about it.

This way, your wishes will be known in advance. Many wonderful landowners have done this to everyone's advantage.

NEW SIGNS



ETR photo

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of volunteer Fred Tupper of Winthrop, TNC now has two new routed wood signs for two of its preserves. The first sign was for Sheep Island in Little Deer Isle, and the second for Douglas Mountain in Sebago. In the latter case particularly an improved sign has been sorely needed for several years; and Fred Tupper's offer to make such a sign was a very welcome contribution. The sign was put up at a dedication ceremony in early September. It is shown with the student caretaker at the Preserve this summer, Dave Weltman. The two signs only serve to emphasize how much a volunteer can do to assist in the better management of the preserves.

Additions con't. fr. p.1

East Penobscot Bay. The gift of David P. Becker, this brings TNC ownership to 138 acres. Mr. Becker, previously a Board member before moving out of State, had given 39 acres in 1973 and 45 acres in 1976.

Bradbury is rather densely covered with spruce and fir with imposing cliffs along nearly the entire shoreline. Ospreys nest on the Island, and it maintains a significant deer herd. The size of the herd is now under study by the University of Maine Wildlife Department. The property is used during the summer months by the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School for solos and by occasional yachtsmen. Its lack of good landing sites makes substantial use impractical.

The Chapter Board, at their recent meeting, voted to accept both these gifts, expressing appreciation to their donors for their support.

Visiting Preserves

Most of the Maine Chapter preserves are open to the public; and in many cases, trails exist enabling the visitor to better enjoy what is there. However, there are a few that require special care; and on those we do ask that you contact the Chapter office before visiting. Crystal Bog is a good example. Many feet trampling the Bog can easily destroy the rare plants we are trying to protect. Great Wass is another

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Special Awards Given At Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting honored two volunteers for all their work on the Stewardship Committee for Crystal Bog. Cochairmen Sally Rooney of Houlton and Candy McKellar of Sherman Mills have worked tirelessly with their Committee to increase the Chapter's knowledge of this vast 3,963-acre preserve in northern Maine and have been very able stewards of the property. Through their efforts, among other things, the boundaries have been located and gradually blazed, and increasing numbers of rare plants have been confirmed. Drosera linearis, heretofore unknown that far south in New England, was located by their watchful eyes. The Chapter is fortunate to have such good, enthusiastic persons in charge of one of the most significant of the preserves.

Sheep Returning To Wreck Island

Sheep are being returned to Wreck Island Preserve in Stonington. The Island has been divided in half by a fence put up by students from Hurricane Island Outward Bound School. Using plots originally established by interns who conducted the natural resource inventory of the Island, the effect of sheep on island vegetation will be measured over the next several years. Wreck was chosen because it is an island that had sheep in the past, and it is one of the few largely open islands in Penobscot Bay.

The adjacent Round Island, also owned by TNC, for example, is thickly covered with spruce and fir, almost to the point of being impenetrable. The project is being conducted by Dr. Ray Leonard of the U. S. Forest Service Research Station in Durham, New Hampshire; Philip Conkling of the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School; and Dr. William Drury of the College of the Atlantic. The data which is produced will give an indication of the effect sheep have and offer the information needed to enable TNC to make future management decisions for the Island.

example; there are many fragile areas, and trails that do exist are game trails and not well marked. It is easy in both these cases to get lost, to say nothing of damage you may do. Please, therefore, contact us before going. If you have questions about a preserve, please ask first; you might save trampling on a rare plant or frightening off birds from their nests! (Thanks.)



STEWARDSHIP

Conservancy Island Code

For some months, the Chapter Stewardship Committee wrestled with the questions and problems raised by increased public use of preserves. As use increased, it became evident that some kinds of guidelines were necessary. The Committee decided to first look at islands, as some of their requirements are peculiar to island preserves only. If such guidelines proved workable, then the concept could be expanded to other preserves.

--For Island Preserves of the Maine Chapter, The Nature Conservancy--

These Islands are protected as sanctuaries. Please respect their natural qualities and leave them in as undisturbed condition as possible.

ISLAND PRESERVE RESTRICTIONS

Island Preserves are for careful day use only. No overnight camping.

Fires are extremely dangerous, can easily get out of control with the wind, and are hard to put out due to the difficulty of access. Help us protect the Islands by building **no fires**. Cook with stoves only. If a fire is absolutely necessary, make sure it is well below high tide line, preferably on the leeward side of the Island. Douse any fire with water. Local fire permits are generally required.

Help us preserve the Islands by removing no rocks, plants, or animals.

Hunting, trapping, or collection of specimens is inconsistent with Conservancy protection objectives and can be permitted only under special circumstances.

Keep domestic pets (dogs and cats) off all Islands to avoid predation, and on bird nesting Islands, destruction of nesting cover and young birds. Avoid bringing any exotic plants which could take hold on the Island preserve.

The soils on many coastal islands are shallow, easily eroded and compacted. Stay on established trails or rocks. Avoid wet, boggy areas.

Avoid landing on bird nesting Islands during the nesting season (approx. March 15 – July 15) as disturbances will cause serious nest losses.

Do not frighten seals or seabirds, or other wildlife often found on the Islands.



In early summer, the Board adopted what has become known as the Island Code. Local stewardship committees undertook to make the Island Code available to island users in the most effective way for their preserves. Results will be assessed this fall and adjustments made.

As many members are island users, we would appreciate your comments on the Island Code. The object of such a code is not to burden the visitor with still another document, but to try to better protect the resource for which TNC has responsibility. TNC now owns all or part of 26 islands along the coast and anticipates this to increase. We encourage your reactions! Send comments to: Minie Lannon, Stewardship Director, Maine Chapter, The Nature Conservancy, 335 Water Street, Augusta, Maine 04330. (Thank you.)

Carry in – carry out all litter. There are no latrines on the Island preserves. Try not to use them as such.

Keep group size small and provide adequate leadership.

Please be careful. TNC cannot assume any liability for use of its Island preserves.

GENERAL ISLAND ADVICE

There is no guaranteed supply of fresh water on most Islands. All users should supply their own water.

The weather along the Maine coast can change dramatically within a matter of minutes. Island visitors should always be prepared for inclement weather, including heavy fogs, strong winds, sudden precipitation, and high seas.

Tidal currents around and between Islands can be surprisingly forceful and unpredictable. Caution with tides is always necessary.

PLEASE NOTE

Individual Island preserves may also have specific requirements to protect a particular natural feature found on that preserve. In addition, educational and scientific programs are occasionally granted permission for extended use of a preserve. It is wise to check before your visit; but if this is not possible, please be careful of the Island and leave no trace of your visit.

Thank you,

The Nature Conservancy
Maine Chapter

The Chapter NEWS is printed bi-monthly, except in the summer, on recycled paper. Comments and contributions of articles are welcome. Editor: M.M. Lannon

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
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